

State Council on Workforce Services  
October 13, 2005  
Provo, Utah

*Attendees: Libbie Zenger, Shawn Potter, Dawn Skorka, Gary Knapp, Paul Nielson, Debra Dull, Deborah Van Leeuwen, Mike Richardson, Tani Downing, John Nixon, Christopher Love, Marty Kelly, Blaine Petersen, Dave Hogue, Richard Thorn, Ron Ahlstrom, Greg Diven, Dan Curtis, Vint DeGraw, Julie Lay, Tom Darais, Bill Walsh, Shirley Weathers, Melisa Stark, Toni Ansel, Shelly Ivie, Lynn Purdin, Christian Ward, James Whitaker, Jon Pierpont, Russell Thelin, Susan Hill, Randy Hopkins, Debbie Herr, Kathy Leiker, Gaylene Pebley, Stan Eckersley, Larry Pearson, Steve Jensen, Jeffrey Galli, Shawna South, Sandra Grand, Sharon Wilkins, Judy Chambley, Jan Thompson, Ann Barnson, Kathleen Johnson, Stephanie Smith, Melissa Finch, Helen Thatcher, Karen Larsen, Violet Smit, Charles Daud, Diane Lovell, Bob Gilbert, Stever Cuthbert, Jolyn Bevan, Jane Braodhead, Tara Connolly, Connie Laws, Mary Gehman-Smith*

Welcome and Opening Business - Deborah Van Leeuwen, Host Chair

Deborah Van Leeuwen welcomed the group and stated she is filling in for Chair Kevin Crandall, who is out of town on business. As there is not a quorum today, absent members will be contacted via phone for votes. She introduced Stan Eckersley, Legislative Fiscal Analyst and Christian Ward, Budget Analyst from the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget.

Deborah called for approval of the Consent Agenda. Libbie Zenger motioned to approve the Consent Agenda (which includes the 14 July 2005 meeting minutes and one training provider, Renaissance Dental Institute, Springville, Utah), Shawn Potter seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Executive Director's Report - Tani Pack Downing

- Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts - Tani acknowledged DWS regional staff for their efforts in assisting evacuees at both Camp Williams and the Employment Centers. On 03 September 2005, DWS was notified that evacuees were en route to Camp Williams. The next day, a significant amount of DWS staff was onsite at Camp Williams. DWS volunteered to assist with FEMA and became the oversight entity. A contract was signed with the Federal Government stating DWS would continue to assist. Chris Love worked with Greyhound who provided discount vouchers assisting 143 evacuees return to their families. DWS organized a job fair with 25 participating employers. 44 offers of employment were received that day.

- Awards - The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) awarded DWS a \$25M bonus for reducing out-of-wedlock teenage pregnancy. DHHS also awarded DWS a \$3.7M high performance bonus for achieving TANF goals. This is the sixth time Utah has received a high performance bonus. DWS received a \$567,000 food stamp accuracy bonus a few months ago which makes Utah fourth in the nation. In July, DWS received a Transition-to-Adult Living (TAL) recognition. Blaine Petersen asked if these bonuses are directed toward a certain activity. Tani explained that the TANF bonus will be directed towards TANF and the Food Stamp bonus will go towards Food Stamps.
- Efficiencies - Tani explained as a management team, it is important that DWS follows the Governor's plan. DWS has consolidated 20 Divisions down to 12. This results in a savings of \$725,000 annually at the Director's level alone. DWS also eliminated several Administrative Support positions. There are 32 affected positions in the regions and all but 16.5 will be eliminated. DWS has a commitment to staff and want to preserve jobs when possible. As of last week, all affected staff have found other positions. This results in a savings of \$835,000 annually. The Office of Child Care, the Governor's Commission on Marriage and the Women's Commission have been combined into the Policy Division. The Child Care Policy was reviewed as it was complex. It used to take 60 minutes to complete a review, it has now been reduced to 30 minutes.

#### Legislative Update - John Nixon

John Nixon reported this year DWS' legislative requests are the largest in recent history. As we move forward, the Governor's office has asked us to look internally for these resources. One of the biggest requests we have received this year is for the General Assistance (GA) program. The GA program assists individuals who are unable to work and is 100% generally funded. Many recipients have applied for and are awaiting a decision from the Social Security Administration. As the caseloads continue to increase, it is getting to the point where we need to fund the program completely or back off of it. The total request for this program is \$6M. Another request is for \$3.1M for eREP from the general fund. Our TANF block grant has funded much of this. We have a request for some child care funding. We fully anticipate when TANF is reauthorized, participation hours will need to

be increased. Once the Governor's budget is released, DWS will support it. Mike Richardson reported legislative issues we will be working on this year are, 1) In the past, only 50% of an individual's social security benefit has been counted against their unemployment insurance benefit. We are asking the legislature to extend this offset; 2) DWS will be proposing a Bill from Representative Allen on simplified reporting, an option under the Federal Farm bill. We need to change the State law. This supports working families. We are watching the Women's Commission and the FACT legislation. These areas will be tracked.

#### Economic Information Update - Ron Ahlstrom

Ron reported on the following statistics:

- Utah Employment (seasonally adjusted)
- Job Growth Across the Country
- Job Growth Across Utah
- Utah State Employment Growth Rates (1950-2005)
- Utah High Technology Employment (January 2000 - March 2005)
- National Employment Growth Rates - June 2005

#### Allocation of Funds - John Nixon/Steve Cuthbert

John reported there have been questions regarding the allocation of training funds. He explained that one way to pay for training expenses is out of WIA funds. Another option is to transfer funds from Wagner Peyser to WIA funds. DWS has received a Wagner Peyser grant which serves the universal job seeker. Although, the regions have done a good job in allocating, WIA funds had to be transferred to the Wagner Peyser pot. This was done without impacting the amount of training funds. In fact, the amount of training has increased. As we look at reauthorization, we are hoping for a grant. This \$25M bonus couldn't have come at a better time as we can put money back into the reserve account in case of need.

#### Central Region Employer Roundtable Concerns - Greg Diven, Dan Curtis

Greg reported on the progress the Central Region Council has made on the automotive technician roundtable. The process began in May. Employers were emphatic about the less than desirable job applicants and their abilities. CR left the table with an action plan and met with the Wasatch Front Consortium in August. Industry leaders were invited to discuss their concerns. The following recommendations evolved out of the discussion: 1)

improve curriculum by involving industries; 2) do a better job promoting auto tech jobs to students and their parents; 3) resolve the turfs between Department of Education officials; and 4) persuade the Governor/Legislature to encourage opportunities within the automotive industry. Dan Curtis, Larry Miller Group, reported the education process has not progressed and employers are frustrated with the applicants in the job pool. Many times, courses taught in high school are repeated in College and students end up dropping out. Employers are forced to recruit outside the State to get the level of technicians they need. They have tried for more than a year to get the Department of Education to sit down and listen. Turfs have prevented this. The roundtables are providing the needed opportunity. Steps on the action plan have been taken. Greg added that the second roundtable is scheduled and results will be reported back to this group.

#### Operations and Performance Committee - Shawn Potter

Shawn Potter reported the following from the Operations and Performance Committee:

- Training Providers - They discussed how DWS reviews the performance of training providers once approved. Staff is working on current recertification criteria.
- Performance Levels for PY 04 are still at 80% with the exception of Youth Attainment;
- The WIA Annual Report was submitted to the Department of Labor on October 1, 2005;
- Budget and PY 05 Allocations are currently obligated at 83% and 75% respectively just three months into the year. The Committee discussed increasing the priority score. They voted to increase the priority score from 8 to 11 adding 3 points for customers who live in the non-metro area. This will regulate how funds are spent.

Shawn Potter motioned to increase the priority score from 8 to 11 adding 3 points for customers who live in the non-metro area, Richard Thorn seconded the motion and the motion carried.

#### State Youth Council Report - Jane Broadhead

Jane Broadhead reported the following from the State Youth Council meeting:

- Marie Christman, Deputy Director, Department of Human Services, has been elected as the new State Youth Council Chair;
- Performance Outcomes were reviewed. 8 out of 9 have been met. Budget reports were discussed.
- She continued the Central Region Youth Council has recommended that the Salt Lake County YES Program be awarded the contract for youth services. Both the Central Region Youth Council and the State Youth Council have approved.

Blaine Petersen motioned to award the youth services contract to the Salt Lake County YES Program, Gary Knapp seconded the motion and the motion carried.

#### Regional Council Chairs' Committee - Libbie Zenger

Libbie reported the following from the Regional Council Chairs' Committee:

- The State and Regional Strategic Plan was reviewed;
- Rick Little reported on the Regional Program Outcomes. These outcomes provide statewide benchmarks;
- Ron Ahlstrom provided an economic forecast for the State;
- Best practices and partnerships for apprenticeships and health care were shared during a roundtable discussion.

#### Business Services and Marketing Committee - Deborah Van Leeuwen

Deborah reported the following from the Business Services and Marketing Committee:

- Brian Young presented the Business Relations Group Quarterly Activity Report (July - September 2005). This report is based on the accomplishments of each region. During the quarter, job fairs for both employers and older workers were held, minority community outreach activities, business expos, services to people with disabilities and seminars and workshops were coordinated. Employer's use of on-line services were increased and there was an onsite recruitment for the FBI;
- Lynn Purdin and Melisa Stark, DWS Research Analysts, updated the group on targeted industries such as construction and health care;
- Mike Richardson discussed DWS' Marketing Plan. Employers and users of on-line services need to be informed and we need to do our part as opportunities to serve individuals in offices decreases.

### Other Business

Tani Downing announced that Ron Ahlstrom, Director, Workforce Information will be retiring in December. He has been an integral part of the Department.

Paul Neilson asked if the process that is used to approve training providers can be sent out ahead of time so members can review. James Whitaker stated that he likes that suggestion. The current process will be discussed in the future.

The next meeting is scheduled for 12 January 2006.

### Public Comment

Karen Silver, Community Action Program and Central Region Council Member stated advocates are concerned regarding the current education opportunities for customers who receive FEP assistance. She asked the State Council what they plan to do with contextualized learning and how FEP recipients will be prepared for the DWS career ladder tracks?

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.